

ABSTRACT

A computerized method for allocating among a plurality of users bandwidth for conveying information across a shared communications medium includes the steps of receiving data representative of past bandwidth of each user during a time interval, forecasting future bandwidth of each user over a future time interval based on the data representative of the past bandwidth, and setting each user's allocation of bandwidth for the future time interval. Each user's allocation is set to equal each user's forecasted bandwidth subject to a respective, predetermined value and subject to bandwidth availability or, alternatively, is set to equal each user's forecasted bandwidth multiplied by a ratio of the total bandwidth available for allocation to the users' total forecasted bandwidth, and subject to a respective, predetermined value and subject to bandwidth availability. Preferably each bandwidth allocation represents a maximum consumable bandwidth limit of a respective user during the future time interval, and not necessarily bandwidth actually consumed by the user during the future time interval.